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EDITORIAL NOTES

THE FRESNO MEETING.

The 45th Annual Session of the Medical Society of the State of California, held at Fresno, April 18, 19 and 20, 1916, was a very distinct success. About 325 registered, and even though this is the busiest time of year for the hotels in Fresno and there was some little trouble in getting all of those in attendance properly cared for, still this was done with the assistance of the Local Committee and everybody seemed pleased. The thanks of the profession are certainly due to the members of the Local Committee of Arrangements, all the members of which worked overtime to help things along.

As it is so late in the month when the meeting closes, and as there are so many important reports to prepare, it is not possible to publish in this issue of the JOURNAL the full minutes of the session.

The elections resulted as follows:

Dr. George H. Kress, Los Angeles, President.

Dr. L. R. Willson, Fresno, 1st Vice-President.

Dr. John C. Yates, San Diego, 2d Vice-President.

Dr. Philip Mills Jones, San Francisco, Secretary.

All of the outgoing Councilors were re-elected with the exception of Dr. Kress, and in his place Dr. Clarence Moore of Los Angeles was elected Councilor.

The place of meeting for the session of next year was made San Diego (Coronado).

A great deal of very important business was transacted, and the attention of every member is earnestly requested for the consideration of these matters when they appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

VIAVI AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

On March 2, it came to the attention of the Secretary of this Society that in some peculiar and unfortunate way, Dr. Hartland Law—one of the proprietors of that notoriously fraudulent nostrum, Viavi—had been engaged to deliver a course of lectures on salesmanship under the auspices of the Extension Lecture Department of the University of California.

Thinking that lack of knowledge of the facts relating to the disgraceful calling of the Law person might have misled the University authorities into employing him, Dr. Jones wrote to President Wheeler on March 2, placing the necessary information before him, suggesting that the course of lectures be stopped, and asking for information as to what might be done.

No satisfactory word was received, and therefore Dr. Jones appeared before the Board of Regents at their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 14, and explained the situation fully to the Board, incidentally calling their attention to the fact that in all probability Law would use this quasi connection with the University for advertising purposes.

The course of lectures was stopped, the last one being given March 16.

That the danger pointed out by Dr. Jones was in no way imaginary was shown clearly about a week later, when a San Francisco morning paper announced a course of lectures before the Business Men's Club by "Dr. Hartland Law of the University of California." It was still further shown, in a rather amusing way, when Dr. Law returned a check sent him by the Treasurer of the University in payment for the lectures which had been given, and which check was made out to the order of Dr. Hartland Law. Dr. Law returned it, with the statement that it was improperly made out and should have been made out to Dr. Hartland Law, Lecturer in the University of California. The check was canceled and his bill paid in currency. Undoubtedly such a document would have been photographed and widely circulated in boosting the fictitious and fraudulent claims of that most disgraceful and dishonest fake from which the Law brothers have amassed their ill-smelling fortunes.

OUR LIBEL SUIT.

The libel suit brought by the sanctimonious Mr. Patten, one time Chairman of the Book Committee of the American Book Concern, which is the important part of the Methodist church, and proprietor of the Wine of Cardui, a patent medicine largely advertised and sold through the South and in prohibition States, is now on in Chicago. It will probably be a long and hard fought suit, and it is to be hoped that no technicality of law or no bias will permit even a shadow of support being given to a man and a concern of this kind. A full account of the matter will be published when it is all over.

victims are rendered more susceptible at that time by exposure, debilitating influences and the presence of predisposing infections.

Pneumonia principally affects those at the extremes of life, but no age is exempt. It is invariably a germ disease. The predisposing and exciting organisms are so numerous that it would be futile to attempt their enumeration. Many of them are constantly present in the mouths and throats of healthy persons and it is only through the aid which we unwittingly extend to them that they are transformed from harmless organisms to one of man's most powerful enemies.

The presence of other diseases is the great predisposing cause of pneumonia. They prepare the soil for invasion. Holding first rank in this category is influenza, the increased incidence of pneumonia at this time being largely due to the present epidemic of la grippe. Individuals suffering from this infection are peculiarly susceptible to respiratory complications and should properly observe every hygienic rule. Inflammation of the upper air passages, pharyngitis, bronchitis, and tonsillitis, often predispose to the development of the disease, particularly among the aged and infirm. The acute contagious diseases of childhood, more especially measles and whooping cough, frequently prepare the way for pneumonia. Anyone who through neglect or carelessness permits the spread of these infections is therefore open to the severest condemnation. Exhausting disease of whatever nature, is often sufficient to so reduce our resistance that we are unable to cope with organisms which should be easily overcome, and hence predisposes to the infection.

Debility, either temporary or chronic, developing from any cause, increases susceptibility. Because of this the disease most often attacks those at the extremes of life. Among debilitating influences must be mentioned cold, exposure to penetrating winds, and the chilling of body surfaces as a result of wetting. The combination of lack of food and fatigue proves particularly disastrous during the winter season and is a condition to be avoided whenever possible. Bad housing, mental or physical harassment, and overwork are alike the advance agents of the infection. Overcrowding, in street cars, theatres, and other public places, is unquestionably in part responsible for the spread of pneumonia in cities, as far greater opportunity is thus offered for the dissemination of the predisposing diseases through indiscriminate coughing and other means of droplet infection, as well as the directly injurious effects which inevitably result from exposure to such environment. The overheating of rooms is also seemingly harmful. Promiscuous expectoration may be, and probably is, a factor in infection and consequently should be avoided by every citizen. A remaining most important agent should be mentioned—alcohol. It is in truth the handmaiden of pneumonia, and there is none more certain or more sure of success, especially if liberally and continuously used.

While the foregoing facts constitute in part our knowledge of the reasons for the widespread dissemination of an infection which carries with it a mortality of from ten to thirty per cent., it should be remembered that our scientific data are not yet complete. There are problems connected with immunity, predisposition, and the occurrence of epidemics which are yet to be solved. It is known that pneumonia frequently attacks those who are perfectly well, and who apparently have observed every hygienic rule. Whether this is due to the increased virulence of the organism or to other causes is unexplained. It is, however, recognized that avoidance of the factors so briefly enumerated will in large part diminish individual susceptibility and therefore the incidence of the disease.

NEW MEMBERS.

MacCloskey, Richard C.—Los Angeles.
 Misch, Herman B.—Los Angeles.
 Jones, Cora White Carpenter—Los Angeles.
 Oettinger, Bernard—Long Beach.
 Walker, Fred'k. E.—Long Beach.
 Close, Katherine M.—Los Angeles.
 Frees, Benj. M.—Los Angeles.
 Hembree, A. T.—Redondo Beach.
 Miller, Benj. F.—Whittier.
 Cook, Elmira F.—Los Angeles.
 Hersman, Fred'k.—Los Angeles.
 White, Harry O.—Los Angeles.
 Cartmell, Theodore M.—Los Angeles.
 Baker, C. D.—Los Angeles.
 Thayer, Lyman Elanson—Los Angeles.
 Berge, F. Emil—Los Angeles.
 Benepe, John L.—Los Angeles.
 Lipson, I. M.—Visalia.
 Smith, Ralph Thaddeus—Pomona.
 Bucknam, Ralph W.—Hollywood.
 Field, A. M.—Patterson, Cal.
 Martin, Dale L.—Orland.
 Walker, Wm. H.—Willows.
 Marshall, Malcolm Y.—Bakersfield.
 Barney, H. N.—Richmond.
 O'Malley, G. M.—Crockett.
 Camp, C. E.—San Pablo.
 Lucas, Wm. M.—Richmond, Cal.
 Farwell, Margaret W.—Los Angeles.
 Schutz, M. H.—Oakland.
 Crawford, Alexander K.—Oakland.
 Pruett, W. C.—Oakland.
 Mosby, George—Oakland.
 Nusbaumer, Pauline S.—Oakland.
 Orr, Jane—Oakland.
 Wilcox, Wilbur J.—Oakland.
 Chiapella, J. O.—Chico.
 Petersen, Dagmar—Selma.
 Wagner, J. D.—Selma.
 Emerson, Lura J. Brown—Los Angeles.
 Emmons, Calvert Luther—Ontario, Cal.
 Hibben, John Severy—Pasadena, Cal.
 McCoy, Thomas J.—Los Angeles.
 McCreery, Rolla L.—Los Angeles.
 Miyata, Yujiro—Los Angeles.
 Newton, LeRoy Allan—Los Angeles.
 Swearingen, Forrest C.—Los Angeles.
 Wilson, Paul White—Whittier, Cal.
 Klotz, Walter C.—Los Angeles.
 Fiegel, F. X.—San Bernardino.
 Means, Samuel W.—San Francisco.
 Geith, C. R.—Corona, Cal.
 Lynch, Frank W.—San Francisco.
 Shrodes, Geo. H.—Delano, Cal.
 Prose, T. W.—Woodland.
 Stark, Jno. Henderson—Oakland.
 Parker, H. R.—Dunsmuir, Cal.
 Atkinson, A. A.—Dorris, Cal.
 Deakin, S.—Sisson, Cal.
 Hall, Geo. Joyce—Yreka, Cal.
 Bathurst, E. W.—Etna Mills, Cal.
 Haines, W. H.—Etna Mills, Cal.
 Shaw, W. F.—Yreka, Cal.
 Hathaway, G.—Yreka, Cal.

DEATHS.

Harcourt, Luke A.—Niles, Cal. (Died in San Francisco.)
 Turnbull, Walter Lathrop—Died in Berkeley.
 Wilcox, Wilbur J.—Oakland.
 Campbell, Wm. Hayden—Died in Los Angeles.